WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

I	1. A vessel comprising:		
2	a center hull;		
3	a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull;		
4	a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull; and		
5	at least one cross support coupling the first and second side hulls,		
6	wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to		
7	the first and second side hulls.		
1	2. The vessel of claim 1, further comprising a ramp coupled to a first end		
1 . 2	of the center hull.		
_	of the center nam.		
1	3. The vessel of claim 2, further comprising another ramp coupled to a		
2	second end of the center hull.		
1	4. The vessel of claim 1, further comprising a lifting mechanism		
2	configured to vertically translate the center hull with respect to the first and second side hulls		
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1	5. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes at least		
2	one of a plurality of screw jacks, a plurality of chain jacks, wire rope and linear winches, a		
3	plurality of rack and pinions, and a plurality of hydraulic actuators.		
1	6. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes a		
2	plurality of hydraulic actuators coupled between the center hull and the first and second side		
3	hulls.		
1	7. The vessel of claim 6, wherein the hydraulic actuators are disposed in		
2	the side hulls.		
1	8. The vessel of claim 4, wherein the lifting mechanism includes a		
2	plurality of ballast tanks disposed in the center hull and in the side hulls.		
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1	9. The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be		
2	vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring		
3	ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks.		

10. The vessel of claim 8, wherein the center hull is configured to be tilted 1 by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or more of the ballast tanks. 2 The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are wing walls. 11. 1 The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls include a plurality of 12. 1 2 guides, and the center hull includes a plurality of lifting blocks configured to engage the guides to vertically guide the center hull during vertical translation thereof. 3 The vessel of claim 12, wherein the lifting blocks are coupled to the 1 13. 2 lifting mechanism to vertically translate the center hull. 1 14. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a top deck of the center hull is 2 configured to be vertically translated below a surface of a body of water. 1 15. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are configured to be lifted 2 above a surface of a body of water. 16. 1 The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull is configured to be 2 vertically translated above a surface of a body of water, and the side hulls are configured to 3 be pushed into the water. 1 17. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the first and second side hulls are 2 coupled to the cross support at an upper portion of the side hulls. 1 18. The vessel of claim 1, wherein said center hull is slidably coupled to 2 the first and second side hulls. 1 19. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls 2 increases when the center hull is translated upward. 1 20. The vessel of claim 1, wherein a draft of the first and second side hulls 2 decreases when the center hull translated downward. 1 21. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the side hulls are approximately

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parallel.

1	22. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the first side hull includes one or more		
2	struts coupled to one or more hulls, wherein the second side hull includes one or more struts		
3	coupled to one or more hulls.		
1	23. The vessel of claim 22, wherein the struts are vertically disposed.		
1	24. The vessel of claim 22, wherein the struts are canted.		
1	25. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull, the first side hull, and		
2	the second side hull form hulls of the vessel.		
1	26. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull is configured to be		
2	vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the		
3	vessel.		
1	27. The vessel of claim 1, wherein the center hull includes a top deck		
2	configured to hold cargo and/or passengers.		
1	28. A vessel comprising:		
2	a center hull that includes a first plurality of ballast tanks;		
3	a first side hull coupled to a first side of the center hull, the first side hull		
4	including a second plurality of ballast tanks;		
5	a second side hull coupled to a second side of the center hull, the second side		
6	hull including a third plurality of ballast tanks; and		
7	at least one cross support configured to couple the first and second side hulls,		
8	wherein the center hull is configured to be vertically translated with respect to		
9	the first and second side hulls by selectively transferring ballast water into or out of one or		
10	more of the ballast tanks.		
1	29. The vessel of claim 28, further comprising a first ramp coupled to a		
2	first end of the center hull.		
1	30. The vessel of claim 29, further comprising a second ramp coupled to		
2	second end of the center hull.		

1	31	The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be	
2	vertically translate	d with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the	
3	vessel.		
1	32	The vessel of claim 28, wherein the side hulls are wing walls.	
1	33	The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side	
2	hulls increases wh	en the center hull is translated upward.	
1	34	The vessel of claim 28, wherein a draft of the first and second side	
2	hulls decreases w	en the center hull translated downward.	
1	35	The vessel of claim 28, wherein the center hull is configured to be	
2	vertically translated with respect to the first and second side hulls to change the draft of the		
3	vessel.		
1	36	A vessel comprising:	
2	, a c	entral hull;	
3	ар	urality of struts coupled to the central hull, the struts extending downward	
4	with respect to the central hull;		
5	ар	urality of pods coupled to the struts; and	
6	ар	urality of floatation devices slidably coupled to the struts, wherein a draft	
7	of the pods is con	igured to be increased or decreased by vertically translating the floatation	
8	devices.		
1	37	The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of pods includes at least a	
2	first pod and a second pod.		
1	38	The vessel of claim 37, wherein the plurality of floatation devices	
2	includes at least a	first floatation device and a second floatation device.	
1	39	The vessel of claim 38, wherein the plurality of struts includes at least	
2	a first forward str	t, a second forward strut, a first aft strut, and a second aft strut.	
1	40	The vessel of claim 39, wherein the first forward strut and the first aft	
2		a first side of the central hull, and the second forward strut and the second	
3	aft strut are coupled to second side of the central hull.		
	are some are complete to second side of the central finit.		

- 1 41. The vessel of claim 40, wherein the first pod is slidably coupled to the 2 first forward strut and the first aft strut, and the second pod is slidably coupled to the second 3 forward strut and the second aft strut.
- 1 42. The vessel of claim 36, wherein the plurality of floatation devices 2 includes a number of floatation devices corresponding to a number of struts included in the 3 plurality of struts.
- 1 43. The vessel of claim 42, wherein one or more of the floatation devices 2 are configured to be vertically translated to tilt the vessel.